

Gina Films, DocLab
and 2617 Crowdfunders
present



ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE

directed by
Gabriele Del Grande
Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry
Antonio Augugliaro

FEDIC AWARD
HUMAN RIGHTS NIGHTS AWARD
IDFA OFFICIAL SELECTION

Written and directed by Antonio Augugliaro, Gabriele Del Grande, Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry with Tasneem Fared, Abdallah Sallam, MC Manar, Alaa Bjermi, Ahmed Abed, Mona Al Ghabr, Gabriele Del Grande, Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry, Tareq Al Jabr, Marta Bellingreri, Rachele Masci, Chiara Denaro, Valeria Verdolini, Elena Bissaca, Ruben Bianchetti, Daniele Regoli, Marco Garofalo, Silvia Turati, Gina Bruno Producer Gina Films Associated Producer DocLab Funded by 2617 crowdfunders International distributor Films Transit International Director of photography Gianni Bonardi Cameramen Antonio Augugliaro, Marco Artusi, Valentina Bonifacio Photographer Marco Garofalo Editing Antonio Augugliaro Editing Supervisor Lizi Gelber Color Correction Gabriele Cipolla Live sound, sound designer and sound editor Tommaso Barbaro Sound mix Massimo Mariani Original soundtrack Dissolò Logoi, Tommaso Leddi, Matteo Malturo, Alberto Morelli, Franco Parravicini, Federico Sanesi, MC Manar, Mosè - C.O.V. Poster calligram Khereddin Obed Graphic design Mattia Reali Website Germana Soldano, Mine Minelli, Mattia Reali





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PRESENT

ON THE **BRIDE'S** SIDE

A FILM BY

Antonio Augugliaro
Gabriele Del Grande
Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry



ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE

Written and directed by	Antonio Augugliaro Gabriele Del Grande Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry
Director of photography Camera operators	Gianni Bonardi Antonio Augugliaro Marco Artusi Valentina Bonifacio
Editing Editor consultant	Antonio Augugliaro Lizi Gelber
Live sound, Sound designer and Sound editor	Tommaso Barbaro
Sound mix	Massimo Mariani
Color Correction	Gabriele Cipolla
Poster calligram	Khereddin Obed
Soundtrack	Dissòì Lògoi: Tommaso Leddi, Matteo Maltauro, Alberto Morelli, Franco Parravicini, Federico Sanesi MC Manar Mosè - C.O.V.
Stills photographer	Marco Garofalo
Produced by	Gina Films
With the support of	DocLab
Funded by	2,617 crowdfunders
With a contribution from	lettera27 Archivio Memorie Migranti, Noon Publishing House
Nationality	Italy
Production year	2014
Locations	Milan, Grimaldi, Menton, Marseilles, Nancy, Luxemburg, Bochum, Copenaghen, Malmo, Stockholm
Running time	'98
Format	DCP color
International distribution	Films Transit International janrofekamp@filmstransit.com +31 6 5392 6555 + 31 (514) 844 3358
Press Office	Gina Films iostoconlasposa@gmail.com tel. +39 349 4412207



ON THE **BRIDE'S** SIDE



The group in Milan, the night before the departure

With

Tasneem Fared
MC Manar
Ahmed Abed
Gabriele Del Grande
Tareq Al Jabr
Rachele Masci
Valeria Verdolini
Ruben Bianchetti
Marco Garofalo
Gina Bruno

Abdallah Sallam
Alaa Bjeremi
Mona Al Ghabr
Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry
Marta Bellingreri
Chiara Denaro
Elena Bissaca
Daniele Regoli
Silvia Turati

ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE

SYNOPSIS

A Palestinian poet and an Italian journalist meet five Palestinians and Syrians in Milan who entered Europe via the Italian island of Lampedusa after fleeing the war in Syria. They decide to help them complete their journey to Sweden – and hopefully avoid getting themselves arrested as traffickers – by faking a wedding. With a Palestinian friend dressed up as the bride and a dozen or so Italian and Syrian friends as wedding guests, they cross halfway over Europe on a four-day journey of three thousand kilometres.



The bride in front of the sea in Copenhagen, just before the last border crossing

This emotionally charged journey not only brings out the stories and hopes and dreams of the five Palestinians and Syrians and their rather special traffickers, but also reveals an unknown side of Europe – a transnational, supportive and irreverent Europe that ridicules the laws and restrictions of the Fortress in a kind of masquerade which is no other than the direct filming of something that really took place on the road from Milan to Stockholm from the 14th to the 18th of November 2013.

ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A documentary and yet a political act, a real and yet fantastic story; “On the Bride’s Side” is all these things at once. And, right from the start, the hybrid nature of the film dictated a number of specific choices. First of all, there was the script treatment: rather than writing dialogues and character parts, we organised the journey on the basis of scenes, imagining situations in which our characters, used to the presence of the cameras, could move freely.

The filming, therefore, always had to adapt to the needs of the political act, because we really had to get to Sweden – it wasn’t just for the film. And we had to get there as quickly as possible. This obviously set an extremely demanding work rate: twelve hours a day in the car, scenes to shoot, files to download and, if we were lucky, three hours sleep a night. If there was one thing that stopped the crew from abandoning us on the very first day, it was the atmosphere that was created.

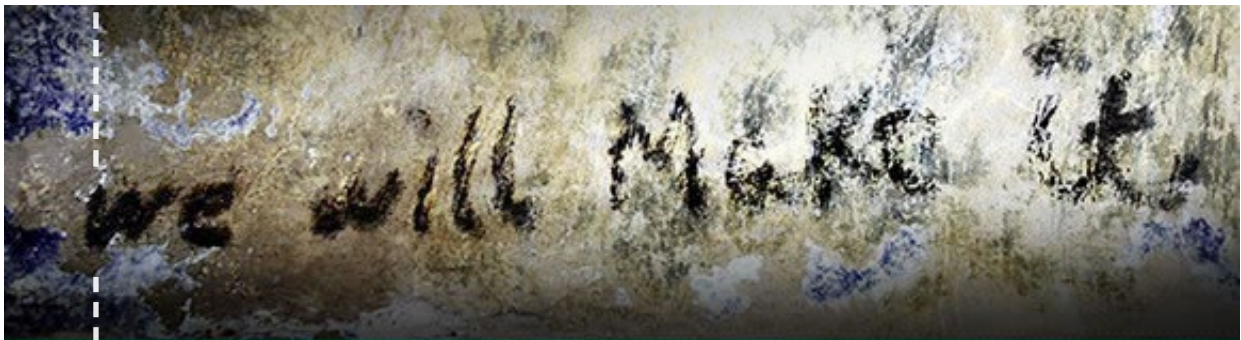
The fact that we were sharing a great risk and a great dream inevitably united us. And this experience also changed our way of seeing things and helped us in the search for a new perception of the border – for a language, which, without falling into the trap of victimism, was able to transform the monsters of our fears into the heroes of our dreams, the ugly into the beautiful and numbers into names.

ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE

PRODUCTION'S NOTE

ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE has been funded with the biggest crowdfunding campaign ever made in the history of the Italian cinema (Corriere Della Sera, <http://bit.ly/1mVFgqP>). During 60 days, from the 19th of May to the 17th of July 2014, the production raised 98,151 Euros through Indiegogo's website (<http://igg.me/at/iostoconlasposa>), thanks to the contributions of 2,541 funders from 37 Countries all over the world (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Philippines, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, United Kingdom, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, United States, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand). More over, other 76 funders donated 2,500 Euro outside of the campaign terms on Indiegogo, bringing the total funding to 100,651 Euro and the total number of contributors to 2,617 people. This results made **On the Bride's Side** one of the most crowd-funded documentary film in the world.

The crowdfunding campaign of **On the Bride's Side** was reported on more than 108 newspapers, radio, tv channels and website in 10 languages (English, Arabic, Italian, French, Chinese, German, Spanish, Turkish, Swedish and Finnish)



One of the graffitis on the walls of the abandoned house nearby the Death Pass

ON THE BRIDE'S SIDE

THE CONTEXT

In European embassies their passports are worthless. And so, month after month, thousands of Syrians and Palestinians turn to Libyan and Egyptian smugglers to be ferried across the Mediterranean on dilapidated, makeshift boats. Fleeing the war in Syria to seek asylum in Europe. Italy is just a transit country. The objective is Sweden.

After reaching Sicily, they continue their journey from Milan, by car, resorting yet again to smugglers. Current immigration laws give them no alternative. Unless of course somebody decides to disobey these laws, which is what we did.

This film is about what happened on the road from Milan to Stockholm on 14th-18th November 2013.



The bride and the groom passing the border between Italy and France

ON THE **BRIDE'S** SIDE

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF THE DIRECTORS

ANTONIO AUGUGLIARO (Milan, Italy, 05-11-1978)

Editor and director. He started his career working in the field of video-art with “Studio Azzurro”. Today he works for tv channels (Sky and Discovery) and on the scene of the independent cinema productions of Milan.

GABRIELE DEL GRANDE (Lucca, Italy, 05-19-1982)

Writer and independent journalist. In 2006 he founded the observatory of the victims of the borders Fortress Europe and since 2011 he has been covering Arab Springs and the wars in Libya and in Syria.

KHALED SOLIMAN AL NASSIRY (Damascus, Syria, 09-18-1979)

Poet, literary critic and graphic designer. Palestinian-Syrian, he was born in Damascus in 1979 and he lives in Milan since 2009. He is currently working as the editorial director and graphic designer for the Emiratian Publisher Noon.



Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry, Antonio Augugliaro, Gabriele Del Grande